

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 11TH, 2013

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Lyon, Vice-Chair Horace Harper, Commissioner Harold Reynolds, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Judy Vaughn, County CFO Phil Pitts and County Administrator Bob Thomas.

After the Pledge to the United States Flag the invocation was given by Commissioner Jones.

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting February 11th, 2013, as read. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Greg Gunter, President of the Chamber, to address the Board on Chamber updates. Mr. Gunter started by saying that the Chamber has been very busy in the community. They still have brochures, t-shirts, tote bags, cookbooks, etc. that they continue to sell. The Historical Marker Project is still on going. EGA will get the next marker. They had a booth at the local fair this past fall and at the Fall Festival. The Fall Festival had over 100 vendors and was attended by over 5,000 people. On January 4th, 2013, they had the Twilight Stroll with 216 participants. There will be an FLW Bass Fishing Tournament on April 6th, 2013, and the annual banquet is to be held on March 21st, 2013. He extended his appreciation for all that the BOC does for the Chamber.

Discussion and approval of a request by the Chamber of Commerce for a \$1,000 tourism expenditure to be used to promote the FLW Fishing Tournament. The Chamber asked that this \$1,000 come from the Richard B. Russell Hotel/Motel tax collections. The fishing tournament will be held on April 6th. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the \$1,000 expenditure for the promotion of the fishing tournament. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of the renewal of a 2013 Beer and Wine License for Sandbar, Inc. Mr. Thomas informed the Board that the Sandbar had met all requirements for the renewal of the license. They are open only in the Spring and Summer, which is the reason they were not on the first list in January. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the license renewal. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to form an Elbert County Recycling and Trash Committee to work with the Solid Waste Department to encourage more recycling and less trash on County roads and to encourage the development of a "Keep Elbert Beautiful" organization. Forming this committee will be from the efforts of Commissioner Harper's and Commissioner Reynolds' efforts to promote education on recycling. This will tie into the national KAB organization, except ours will be KEB (Keep Elbert Beautiful). There will be a one-time fee of \$3,000 to create this organization, and an annual fee of \$150. Mr. Thomas asked each commissioner to give him two names to be considered for the Elbert

County Recycling and Trash Committee. He would like to have those names next week. We have had fifty signs (no litter signs) donated. Our EMS Department has the capability of making these signs for the county at a cost of \$23 each. For anyone found guilty of littering, it will be the Board's recommendation that they do community service instead of paying a fine. Commissioner Reynolds make a motion to approve forming an Elbert County Recycling and Trash Committee. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion of property maintenance codes for Elbert County. County Administrator Bob Thomas gave the commissioners a copy of the Property Maintenance Codes for Elbert County. He asked that they study the codes and be prepared to give suggestions/comments at the work session in April. There are areas in the County that need to be cleaned up, and we need to move forward with project.

Discussion and approval to enter into a joint study to provide five million gallons of water a day and interconnect with five surrounding counties. This study will be submitted for funding to the Governor's Water Supply Program. This proposal will assist in the start of a county-wide water supply for residential and economic development. Elbert County's part could be up to \$10,000, which will come from the Contingency Fund. The goal is to provide water to these counties involved. We will have to increase the City of Elberton's treatment facility and pay for the lines. The County will draw a commission on any water that goes outside the County. If inside the County, the City does not want to run the lines, the County has the option to do so and get a commission on that also. There is a possibility of this going to Clarke County, with anticipated growth Caterpillar and a pharmaceutical company coming there. If Elbert County ever runs short and needs more water, we hold the right to shut off the valve to the other counties. We need to move quickly on this, as the application is due April 30th. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve entering into a joint study with five surrounding counties to provide five million gallons of water a day. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts. Most departments are under budget at this time. As a whole, we are 3% under budget. Some of those over will even out over the coming months. The Senior Center will be reimbursing the County's General Fund for more fuel costs, which will look better for us in the months ahead. The Sheriff's Department is over budget in the area of vehicle maintenance. A year ago there was \$20,000 budgeted in that area, but only \$10,400.50 was used; so the amount was dropped to \$15,000 in this year's budget. They are already at \$20,207. It is hard to tell each year just how much a department will need. We have received \$147,000 more in property taxes than at this time last year.

Public comments on agenda items. There were no public comments.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.